AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows:

In the Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for checking a passenger and baggage into an airline flight, comprising:

> instructing the passenger to obtain ~~obtaining~~ a boarding pass at a first location inside an airport terminal,

> providing the passenger with a boarding pass, the boarding pass containing information associated with the passenger and an indicator that the passenger has checked in; ~~and~~

> instructing the passenger to present ~~presenting~~ the boarding pass at a second location inside the airport terminal, the second location being separated from but in view of the first location, the second location further being adjacent a baggage drop conveyor; and

> ~~to check~~ checking the baggage in accordance with information obtained from the boarding pass.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the information contained on the boarding pass is printed on the boarding pass in the form of a bar code.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising scanning he boarding pass at the second location to retrieve the information.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the information comprises a destination and number of bags to be checked.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the second location further comprises a central conveyor and the baggage drop conveyor has a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the baggage drop conveyor is adjacent the central conveyor.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the passenger placing the baggage on the baggage drop conveyor substantially at the second end of the baggage drop conveyor.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the baggage drop conveyor comprises a scale and the method further comprises the step of weighing the baggage with the scale.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the first location comprises a remote computer located in a home or office.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the first location comprises an electronic kiosk.

10.   (Currently Amended) A system for checking a passenger and baggage into an airline flight, comprising:

   a server coupled to a database containing stored passenger and flight information;

   a boarding pass station comprising a client computer configured for communication with the server, the client computer having a processor, a display, and an associated printer, the processor being capable of executing program instructions to request itinerary information from the passenger, retrieve information from the database, and cause the printer to print a boarding pass; and

   a baggage drop station located separate from the boarding pass station, the baggage drop station comprising a central conveyor having an origination end and a destination end and configured to convey baggage in a direction from the origination end toward the destination end; and

   a baggage drop computer located at the baggage drop station and configured for communication with the server, the baggage drop computer having a processor, a display, a scanner, and an associated printer, the processor executing program instructions to receive and interpret images scanned from the boarding pass and to

allow baggage to be checked into the flight at the baggage drop station only if the passenger has already checked in.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the boarding pass includes a bar code containing one or more of itinerary information, a number of bags to be checked, or a code associated with a record stored in the database.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the baggage drop station further comprises a plurality of baggage drop conveyors each having a first end and a second end, wherein the first ends of the baggage drop conveyors are adjacent the central conveyor and the baggage drop conveyors are configured to convey baggage from the second end toward the first end and the central conveyor.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein at least one of the baggage drop conveyors further comprises a scale for weighing baggage placed on the baggage drop conveyor.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the second end of the baggage drop conveyor is lower than the first end.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the client computer is a home or office computer.

17. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the client computer is located outside the airport.

18. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the client computer is an electronic kiosk located inside the airport.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) A system for checking a passenger and baggage into an airline flight, comprising:

a server coupled to a database containing stored passenger and flight information;

a plurality of electronic kiosks, each of the kiosks configured for communication with the server, the kiosks ~~being capable of~~ executing program instructions to request information from the passenger, retrieve flight and passenger information from the database, and cause an associated printer to print a boarding pass, wherein the boarding pass contains an indication of the passenger's name and number of bags to be checked; and

a baggage drop station located separate from the boarding pass station <u>and within an airport terminal</u>, the baggage drop station comprising (1) a central conveyor having an origination end and a destination end and configured to convey baggage in a direction from the origination end toward the destination end, and (2) a plurality of baggage drop point conveyors extending outward from the central conveyor, the drop point conveyors having a first end adjacent the central conveyor and a second end distant from the central conveyor, the drop-point conveyors further being configured to convey baggage from the second end toward the first end to be deposited onto the central conveyor; <u>and</u>

<u>one or more signs directing the passenger to proceed to one or more of the kiosks before proceeding to the baggage drop station.</u>

21.   (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising one or more sensors associated with the central conveyor and configured to detect the presence of an item on a portion of the central conveyor.

22.   (Canceled).

23.   (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the drop point conveyors comprise:

an initial conveyor, the initial conveyor having an endless belt at least part of which defines an upper surface, the upper surface of the belt being configured to travel from a first end of the initial conveyor to a second end of the initial conveyor; and

a staging conveyor, the staging conveyor having an endless belt at least part of which defines an upper surface,

wherein the initial conveyor is configured to deliver bags to the staging conveyor and the staging conveyor is configured to deliver bags to the central conveyor, and further wherein at least a portion of the upper surface of the initial conveyor is relatively lower than a the upper surface of the staging conveyor.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, further comprising:

a motor adapted to cause the staging conveyor endless belt to rotate;

a sensor associated with the staging conveyor to detect the presence of an item on the staging conveyor; and

a conveyor controller in signal communication with the motor, the staging conveyor sensor, and the one or more sensors associated with the central conveyor and configured to cause the staging conveyor to deposit bags onto the central conveyor only where there are no detected bags in an interfering position on the central conveyor.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of kiosks are arranged as clusters of adjacent kiosks.

26. (Original) The system of claim 26, further comprising a barrier adjacent the origination end of the central conveyor.

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